

Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.

COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL STATUS AND CLOSE CORPORATION.

At the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, held on the 25th January, 1895, the following Resolution in reference to the subject of "Professional Status," was carried :—

"That the Committee shall obtain from the Membership its opinion as to the desirability of obtaining Close Corporation powers, and if the Membership supports the opinion, then the Committee shall forthwith proceed to the work of formulating bills of incorporation from the several legislatures for submission to the Council, and that the Council be authorized to furnish them any legal advice necessary, and that the report be sent to the Council when ready."

What seems to be understood by the term "Close Corporation" is the preventing of any one from using the designation Civil Engineer, or acting as a Civil Engineer in the designing, superintending, or constructing of Engineering Works, of any description whatever, unless he be duly qualified as a Member of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, or of some kindred Chartered Association, and the resolution contemplates seeking legislative enactment, as well from the several Provincial Assemblies as from the Dominion Parliament, excluding from Engineering practice all persons not so qualified.

In voting on the Resolution, Members will do well to weigh the possible obstacles to obtaining such exclusive privileges.

The following are some of the points to be thought upon :—

1st. Land Surveyors are specially licensed for the practice of their calling because in every civilized country the guardianship of its landmarks is properly a function of the Government and Law Courts of the country, and to that end, in all questions of boundaries the Licensed Surveyor is *de facto* the sworn servant of the Crown or State. His commission as a surveyor confers no privileges as an Engineer.

2nd. Many important Engineering works in Canada are carried out under Provincial Charters, and not uncommonly by aid of provincial subsidies. Close Corporation powers would, therefore, have to be procured (as the Resolution properly foresees) from each Province, as the Dominion Parliament would not venture to dictate to the Provinces as to the Class, or qualification of persons to be employed on Provincial Works.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ARTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1900

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1900

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1900

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

9
4
2
1
6
8

3rd. The likelihood of the Provinces conceding the exclusive privilege of Engineering practice to the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, which is what the Resolution proposes to ask, as also the probability of an application from our Society for exclusive rights, moving the Provinces to incorporate Provincial Engineering Associations to our detriment should be considered.

4th. Before marking his ballot "as to the desirability of obtaining Close Corporation," the voter would do well to ponder the advisability of seeking to obtain it, and the effect of popular opinion against legislative dictation as to whom Companies, Municipalities, or Individuals shall employ to oversee the expenditure of their own money.

5th. The cost of the Society of obtaining, or even taking the step necessary to obtain the legislation contemplated by the Resolution will probably be about One Thousand Dollars, (\$1,000.)

The Resolution would simply seem to submit the following question to the Membership :—

IS IT DESIRABLE TO SEEK FOR CLOSE CORPORATION POWERS?

Of the desirability of possessing such exclusive rights there will hardly be a division of opinion, but there is a corollary to the question :—"If not likely to be obtained, will it be politic to seek them?"

The Committee asks each member to weigh the proposition carefully, *pro* and *con*, before affixing his *yea* or *nay* to this Ballot.

(Signed) ALBERT J. HILL,
W. T. JENNINGS,
W. SHANLY,
C. E. W. DODWELL,
ALAN MACDOUGALL,
Chairman.

Mr. George H. Webster does not concur fully with the other members of this Committee. He offers in amendment to the question in the 2nd last paragraph "If not likely to be obtained, will it be politic to seek them" the following:

"If satisfactory legislation is not secured on the first application in any province or provinces, are you willing that the Society should persevere in its efforts to get it?"

112 Mansfield Street,
Montreal, 13th July, 1895.

*I voted on 8-8/95 as not in favour
of applying for an act for close corporation -
that there would be advantage in applying to
Provinc before applying to Dominion -
not in favour of including land surveyors in our
corporation - Did not vote as to question of
pastor's action would cause opposition of land
surveyors*